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SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know what facilities the Government have given to the cultivators? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The officers of the Agriculture department give them the necessary guidance and the Government help the ryots to secure the best seeds and also give short-term loans for purchasing manure, etc."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" On a point of order, Sir. I wish to make a submission to the Chair. It is a very important right of hon. Members of this House to put supplementary questions and the proper procedure for doing so, is for hon. Members to catch the eye of the Hon. the Chairman. They cannot stand up or shout, as it is against parliamentary procedure. Therefore, I respectfully submit that after the reply of the Hon. Minister to the main question, the Hon. the Chairman should be pleased to look this side and that side of the House and call a particular hon. Member to put the supplementary question. To-day, unfortunately, that is not the case and the Hon. the Chairman is concentrating his attention on the file before him, so much so, most hon. Members are not able to put supplementary questions."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The Chair is anxious to get through all the questions to-day."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" I do agree with the Chair in this respect but hon. Members who wanted to put supplementary questions have failed miserably as they could not catch the eye of the Hon. the Chairman. Therefore, I wish to bring this matter to the notice of the Chair."

Number of elephants owned by Government departments of this State.

* 124 *Q*.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of elephants owned by Government departments of this State;

(*b*) how many of them are utilized in forests for felling down trees and transporting timber; and

(*c*) the medical facilities that have been afforded to those elephants?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Eighty-eight.

" (*b*) Seventy-six.

" (*c*) Three officers of the Animal Husbandry department qualified in Veterinery Science are employed to afford medical facilities to the elephants maintained in the Forest department.

The seniormost of the three is in the gazetted rank designated as ' Inspector of Livestock ' with headquarters at Kozhikode.

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The other two are non-gazetted officers designated as 'Assistant Veterinary Inspectors'; one stationed at Manantoddy in Wynaad and other at Topslip on the Anamalais."

Lease of forest lands for paddy cultivation in this State.

*125 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any forest lands have been leased out for paddy cultivation in this State in 1954–55; and

(b) if so, the number of acres and the minimum period of lease?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) No Sir.

" (b) Does not arise."

Collection of security deposits from the retail foodgrains dealers.

*126 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the total security deposits collected from the retail foodgrains dealers including bakeries during the rationing period in South Arcot district; and

(b) whether those security deposits have since been returned after the derationing?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) A total sum of Rs. 54,190 was collected.

" (b) A sum of Rs. 32,320 has been refunded so far after the derationing and the balance amount is being refunded to the dealers."

Collection of visual education fees from pupils by the Middle and High Schools.

*127 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Middle and High schools (boys and girls) that collect visual education fees from pupils;

(b) the number of such schools where such fees are accumulated without giving the benefit of visual education to students; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure visual education for students paying fees?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (a) Six hundred and eleven during the year 1953–54, Sir.

" (b) One hundred and twenty-seven, Sir.

" (c) Reports have been called for such irregular collections and suitable action is being taken. General instructions have